

All of these things come together to form an economic strategy that will give opportunity to every American, and ask responsibility from every American. But we can't take any of the steps if we don't take the first step.

That's why the decision Congress must make this week is so terribly important. We cannot afford not to act. I need your help. I need for you to tell the people's representatives to get on with the people's business. Tell them to change the direction of the economy and do it now, so that we can start growing again, producing jobs again, and moving our country forward again.

In the last 6 months, we've won some important battles here: a new family and medical leave law just taking effect that allows young parents to take time off to care for a new baby or a sick child or an ill parent without losing their jobs; a new national service corps that will help tens of thousands of our young people to pay for college through service to their country in their communities; a new Supreme Court Justice confirmed just today without partisanship or rancor; new policies to develop high-technology jobs into converted defense facilities and plants to productive civilian purposes, expanding jobs and opportunity. And, from a summit in Vancouver, Canada, to help save Russian democracy, to a summit in Tokyo to help revive the world economy, there are many new opportunities for Americans and a new respect for America's leadership.

We Americans are a people both privileged and challenged. We were formed in turbulent times, and we stand now at the beginning of a new time, the dawn of a new era. Our deeds and decisions can lift America up so that in our third century we will continue to be the youngest and most optimistic of nations; a people on the march once again, strong and unafraid. If we are bold in our hopes, if we meet our great responsibilities, we will give the country we love the best years it has ever known.

Good night, and may God bless you all on this journey.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not

available for verification of the content of this address.

Statement on an Agreement on Pacific Northwest Timber Sales

August 3, 1993

We are committed to working to enhance the long-term economic and environmental health of the region. That commitment means a responsible forest management plan and a responsible but determined effort to get timber moving back into the mills. We have offered an innovative, comprehensive, and balanced plan to solve a difficult set of problems. Now we are taking steps to implement that plan and get timber to the mills.

NOTE: This statement was part of a White House press release announcing the agreement.

Nominations for Commissioner of Social Security and Director of the National Institutes of Health

August 3, 1993

President Clinton announced his intention today to nominate Texas Woman's University president Shirley Chater to be the Commissioner of Social Security and Nobel laureate Harold Varmus to be the Director of the National Institutes of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce these nominations today," said the President. "Shirley Chater is an accomplished administrator with a strong background in health care issues. I am convinced that she will do an outstanding job of running this enormous and enormously important Agency. Likewise, as one of the world's leading medical researchers, Harold Varmus will bring great strength and leadership to the National Institutes of Health."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Executive Order 12856—Federal Compliance With Right-To-Know Laws and Pollution Prevention Requirements

August 3, 1993

Whereas, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11001–11050) (EPCRA) established programs to provide the public with important information on the hazardous and toxic chemicals in their communities, and established emergency planning and notification requirements to protect the public in the event of a release of extremely hazardous substances;

Whereas, the Federal Government should be a good neighbor to local communities by becoming a leader in providing information to the public concerning toxic and hazardous chemicals and extremely hazardous substances at Federal facilities, and in planning for and preventing harm to the public through the planned or unplanned releases of chemicals;

Whereas, the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13101–13109) (PPA) established that it is the national policy of the United States that, whenever feasible, pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source; that pollution that cannot be prevented should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner; that pollution that cannot be prevented or recycled should be treated in an environmentally safe manner; and that disposal or other release into the environment should be employed only as a last resort and should be conducted in an environmentally safe manner;

Whereas, the PPA required the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote source reduction practices in other agencies;

Whereas, the Federal Government should become a leader in the field of pollution prevention through the management of its facilities, its acquisition practices, and in supporting the development of innovative pollution prevention programs and technologies;

Whereas, the environmental, energy, and economic benefits of energy and water use reductions are very significant; the scope of

innovative pollution prevention programs must be broad to adequately address the highest-risk environmental problems and to take full advantage of technological opportunities in sectors other than industrial manufacturing; the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486 of October 24, 1992) requires the Secretary of Energy to work with other Federal agencies to significantly reduce the use of energy and reduce the related environmental impacts by promoting use of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; and

Whereas, as the largest single consumer in the Nation, the Federal Government has the opportunity to realize significant economic as well as environmental benefits of pollution prevention;

And In Order To:

Ensure that all Federal agencies conduct their facility management and acquisition activities so that, to the maximum extent practicable, the quantity of toxic chemicals entering any wastestream, including any releases to the environment; is reduced as expeditiously as possible through source reduction; that waste that is generated is recycled to the maximum extent practicable; and that any wastes remaining are stored, treated or disposed of in a manner protective of public health and the environment;

Require Federal agencies to report in a public manner toxic chemicals entering any wastestream from their facilities, including any releases to the environment, and to improve local emergency planning, response, and accident notification; and

Help encourage markets for clean technologies and safe alternatives to extremely hazardous substances or toxic chemicals through revisions to specifications and standards, the acquisition and procurement process, and the testing of innovative pollution prevention technologies at Federal facilities or in acquisitions;

Now Therefore, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the EPCRA, the PPA, and section 301 of title 5, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Applicability.